

AL AND FAMILY NEWSPAPER.

BUCKEYE ROTATING HARROW.

His subscriber has been appointed Agent for the sale of these Harrows, and town and county Rights for same, in this State and New Hampshire. And he wishes to call the attention of farmers and the manufacturers and dealers in farming tools, to this valuable improvement. The approval this Harrow has met with wherever introduced, is the best guaranty of its worth.—The following are some of its advantages over the common harrow.

By its rotating motion the teeth are made to move in curved lines, which plainly show that they pass over more than double the surface they would if dragged along in a straight line, and by this rotary motion, they cross the track of each other at every conceivable angle; thus more completely pulverizing the soil, and leaving its surface so smooth, that it is perfectly apparent, when seen in operation, that, without any extra labor of team, it will, in the same time, do more than double the work of an or-

Any one desirous of purchasing the harrow, or the Right to make and sell the same, will be promptly furnished with every information in relation to the matter by addressing a line to
JOHN H. ALLEN, Ridgeway, Maine.

September, 1853. 294.

INSURANCE.

Waterville Mutual Fire Insurance Co.
WATERVILLE, - - - - - MAINE.

THIS Company has been duly organized, agreeable to the Charter. Its operations are to be confined mainly to the Farming Interests. Its risks are limited to Dwelling-houses of

The safest class, in their contents and out-buildings. The salaries of its Officers are to be fixed by vote of the Members at their Annual meeting.

The By-Laws provide that "In case of any disagreement between the Company and any person, arising out of an Insurance, the matter in controversy shall be referred at once, at the request of either party, to three disinterested persons, one to be chosen by the Company, one by the other party, and the third by the two thus chosen, and their decision shall be final."

Its Rates are from 4 to 8 per cent., and no risks are taken, sin-

gle or combined over \$2,000. It is conducted on the most safe and economical principles, and no Company can commend itself more highly to the confidence of the public.

OFFICERS FOR THE PRESENT YEAR.

D. L. MILLIKEN, President. C. R. McFADDEN, Secretary.
C. H. THAYER, Treasurer.

DIRECTORS.

D. L. MILLIKEN, MORRIS HARRISON	J. H. DRUMMOND, N. R. BOYD
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C. H. THAYER, C. E. McFADDEN, G. W. PRESSEY,
L. T. BOOTHBY, General Agent.
Waterville, June, 1888. 6m25

Eighteenth Anniversary.
Comer's Commercial College.
No. 139 Washington St., Boston.

WILL be open, as heretofore, for Day and Evening Studies, on and after the 1st September. PENMANSHIP, BOOK KEEPING, NAVIGATION, &c., practically taught. No Class System. Separate department for LADIES. Students aided in obtaining Employment. Catalogue and Terms can be had at the Room, or by mail, FREE.

GEORGE N. COMER, A.M., } Principals, aided by
3m35 OLIVER F. LINTON, } able Assistants.

E. D. NORCROSS'
PATENT WOOD FURNACE.

THIS Furnace received the first premium at the Maine State Fair. The advantages claimed for this Furnace over others in use, are, 1st its power to warm a large area, without overheating its extensive surface. 2nd, The exterior is so constructed as to throw the heat directly against the surface, and it presents a much larger radiating surface than any other yet introduced. 3d, The large number that have been sold with five years' test.

proves it to be the most durable and permanent fixture for heating buildings. 4th, Economy of fuel and time in attending it, is far less than any other furnace in use; because the heat is effectively used before it leaves the furnace. 5th, It is also, considering its durability and advantages, the cheapest. Please call and examine.

Tin roading done in the best manner, after my improved plan.
Gas Piping, Steam Piping, Plumbing, Copper, Sheet Iron, and Tin Work done in the best manner.

I will give personal attention to fitting up nurses in any part of the State.
Augusta, October 4, 1856. E. D. NORCROSS. 3m42

Stoves. Stoves.
COOKING and other kinds of STOVES for sale at MUCH LOWER PRICES than you have been paying, at No. 11 and 13 Bridge's Block.
Augusta, August 2, 1856. T. LAMBAUD. 33

**DRY GOODS,
CHEAP FOR CASH.**
KILBURN & BARTON have just received 100 packages of FRESH IMPORTED FALL GOODS, embracing new and elegant styles of Dress Goods, which have been bought under the most favorable circumstances, and will be offered for CASH at low prices as can be bought in any market.

Goons, believing that for quality, beauty of design, &c. it is unequalled on the river:—Super Black Silks, of the best make Fancy Silks; elegant styles of printed *Thibets*; *Ladies' Clothes* all colors; *Ladies' Cloakings*; Long and Square *Shawls*, new styles; *Muslin* and *Cambric Collars*, cheap. Do. do. In setting *Neckties*; *Hosiery* and *Gloves*; *Buck, Kid* and *Lisle Gaiters*; new styles *Wool De Laines*; *Mouseline De Chines*; *French* and *English Prints*; *Brondcloths*, *Doskins* and *Vestings*; *Bleached* and *Brown Sheetings*; *Flannels*, plain and fulled; *Warp* and *Woole*

Yarn, and a general assortment of Goods adapted to the season
purchased entirely for CASH, and will be sold cheap.

KILBURN & BARTON.
1st 1/38

Augusta, Sept. 8, 1855.

NEW GOODS! NEW GOODS!
LATEST STYLES AT
W. JOSEPH & CO.'S,
107 N. 3rd St.

THE senior partner of the firm having just returned from Europe, where he spent several weeks in the selection and purchase of Goods, they are happy to inform the public that they are now prepared to offer for sale an elegant assortment of *Fabrics* of their own importation, such as

Elks, black and fancy,	Pail de Chevre,
Jasper Stripe,	Paris Cross Over,
Robert Quille,	Mantilla Shawls,
Shawl Neck	

Snow boots, Trimmings, Etc., Etc., Etc., Etc.,
 Endomeries, Hosiery and Gloves, Etc.,
 An early call is solicited at
 W. JOSEPH & CO.'S
 Aug. 24, 1858. 36 Cor. Oak and Water-sts., Augusta.

NEW
 FURNITURE & CROCKERY

WAREHOUSE.
THE subscribers would inform the citizens of HALLOWELL and vicinity that they have taken the Store formerly occupied by P. MORTON, on Water Street, where may be found one of the most extensive assortments of
Crockery, Glass & China Ware,
that can be found on the Kennebec river. The latest and best patterns of China Ware; Mulberry, Light Blue, Brown, White Granite, and other DINING, TEA and TOILET SETS; Jewellery

With a good assortment of CUTLERY, &c., may be found in great variety. Also a large assortment of Solar Lamps; Wooden Ware of every description. In short, at this establishment may be found every article usually called for in a Crockery Store, all of which will be sold at the lowest prices, for cash. Our

Stock of Furniture

Will be sold at reduced prices for cash, as we have taken for our motto "Quick sales and small profits." Our stock of Furniture will consist in part of Sofas of all kinds; Barreles; Secretaries;

Card, Centre and Common Tables; Stands; Bedsteads; Mahogany, any, Case and Common Chairs of all kinds; Painted Chamber Suits; Looking Glasses, various styles. Gilt, Rosewood and Common Picture Frames on hand and made to order, cheap for cash.

WM. H. STACY, C. R. WELLS.
Hallowell, Oct. 4, 1855. 6w42


South Kennebec Ag. Society.

SIXTH EXHIBITION,
TO be held at GARDINER, on TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY and
 THURSDAY, Oct. 12th, 13th and 14th, 1858. Any person
 may become a member by paying \$1, and signing the By-Laws
 and will receive a Ticket at the time of payment, which will ad-
 mit the Member and Lady, and their minor children accompany-
 ing them. Tickets and Copy of By-Laws may be had of the
 Agent,
 August, Oct. 4, 1858. FRED. WINGATE.

A Word to Farmers.

THE subscriber is now prepared to supply those who may send him their orders for the celebrated "PERKINS CORN HUSKER." Price \$5.75. It cuts the ear close to the first row of kernels, causing the corn to dry without moulding; thereby saving in good order that which is often damaged by leaving some of the cob below the corn in husking by hand, and all as severe and painful hand labor is entirely avoided.

This student received a DIPLOMA at the Vermont and Maine
 State Fairs, held in September, 1858. They can be seen at the
 store of J. W. PATTERSON, East end Kennebec Bridge.
 SAMUEL PATTERSON, Agent.
 Augusta, Oct. 4, 1858.



FURNITURE.

THE subscriber, having purchased the extensive
 Stock of Furniture of J. D. PIERCE, and now

larly, additions thereto, would invite purchasers call and examine his assortment, consisting of
SOFAS, MAHOGANY ROCKING, EASY AND PARLOR CHAIRS,
Cane and Wood Seat Chairs; Centre, Card and Dining Table
Bedsteads; Bureaus; Sinks; Toilet and Wash Stands; Wh
nots; Looking Glasses; Looking Glass Plates, &c.
Warerooms over J. D. PIERCE'S Grockery Store, No. 4 Unit
Block.
L. C. AVERY.
N. B. Cane Seat Chairs rescaled at short notice and on re

sonable terms
Augusta, June, 1855

DENTISTRY.
Dr. I. SNELL, Dentist.

ALL operations on TEETH performed in a reliable manner. ARTIFICIAL TEETH inserted, from one to an entire set, in all modes. SPECIMENS of Teeth and Modes of operating cheerfully shown.

shown and explained, at his Office on Winthrop St., Augusta.
Sept. 21, 1858. 40

Apple Barrels.

I CAN furnish APPLE BARRELS, or any other DRY CASE
at short notice. I have every facility for making the be
work, at the least cost, having seasoned Stock, and water pow
Machinery, by which most of the work is done.
LYMAN WHITTIER.

No. Vienna, Sept 27, 1858. 6w4

Copartnership Notice,

NOTICE is hereby given that the undersigned have this day formed a Copartnership for the purpose of the manufacture and sale of **Boots and Shoes.**

Manufactory on Chapel Street, where may be found a good assortment of Boots, Shoes, Uppers and Sole Leather, at whole sale or retail.

Notice.
THE subscriber, purposing to make a change in his business will sell his remaining stock of CARRIAGES, consisting of a good variety, at cost.
Top Carriages at a large discount from cost.
Payment of all debts now due, is required, at the earliest opportunity.

China, Sept., 1, 1853.

Burnett's

COCAINE, a compound of Cocoa Nut Oil, &c., for the Hair
FLORINE, a new and delightful Perfume, for the Hand
kerchief. **KARLSTON**, a Cosmetic, for removing freckles, tan
sunburn, &c. For sale by
JULY 13, 1853.

F. W. KINSMAN.

Salt.

200 SACKS Liverpool C. F. SALT, at a bargain.
Also, constantly on hand, new and fresh **LIME** and
CEMENT, and White and Red Ash Anthracite and Blacksmith
COAL. **PARROTT & BRADBURY,**
June 7, 1888. 25 (Successors to A. A. Bittles).

HAIR Restorer, No. 1, and Zylbalsamum, No. 2, for the Hair; Prof. Wood's Hair Restorative, with a great variety of other Preparations for the Hair; for sale by
July 31, 1858. 33 EEN FULLER.

The Muse.

THE WEDDING DAY.

The following extract is from Prof. Loughran's new book, "The Courtship of Miss Standish," and comprises the opening lines of the poem:

From the curtain of clouds, from the tent of purple and scarlet,
Issued the sun, the great High Priest, in his garments resplendent.

Holiness unto the Lord, in letters of light on his forehead,
Round the hem of his robe the golden bells and pomegranates,

Blissing the world he came, and the haze of vapor beneath him
Gleamed like a grate of brass, and the sea at his feet was a laver!

This was the wedding morn of Priscilla the Puritan maiden.

Friends were assembled together; the Elder and Magistrate

Graced the scene with their presence, and stood like the Law and the Gospel,

One with the sanction of earth, and one with the blessing of heaven.

Simple and brief was the wedding, as that of Ruth and Boaz.

Softly the youth and the maiden repeated the words of betrothal,

Taking each other for husband and wife in the Magistrate's presence,

After the Puritan way, and the laudable custom of Holland.

Perfervently then, and devoutly, the excellent Elder of Plymouth

Prayed for the health and the home, that were founded that day in affection,

Speaking of life and of death, and imploring divine benedictions.

Meanwhile the bridegroom went forth and stood with the bride at the doorway,

Breathing the perfume of air that warm and beautiful morning.

Touched with Autumnal tints, but lonely and sad in the meadows,

Lay extended before them the land of toil and privation.

There were the groves of the dead, and the barren waste of the sea-shore,

There the familiar fields, the groves of pine, and the meadows;

But to their eyes transfixed, it seemed as the Garden of Eden,

Filled with the presence of God, whose voice was the sound of the Ocean.

Soon was their vision disturbed by the noise and stir of departure,

Friends coming forth from the house, and impatient of longer delay,

Each with his plan for the day, and the work that was left uncompleted.

Then from a stall near at hand, amid exclamations of wonder,

Aiden the thoughtful, the careful, so happy, so proud of Priscilla,

Brought out his snow-white steer, obeying the hand of its master,

Led by a cord that was tied to an iron ring in his nostrils.

Covered with crimson cloth, and a cushion placed for a saddle.

She should not walk, he said, through the dust and heat of the noonday;

Nay, she should ride like a queen, not plod along like a peasant.

Somewhat alarmed at first, but reassured by the others,

Placing her hand on the cushion, her foot in the hand of her husband,

Gayly, with joyous laugh, Priscilla mounted her palfrey.

"Isn't this wanting now?" he said, with a smile, "but the distaff;

Then you would be in truth my queen, my beautiful Bertha!"

Onward the bridal procession now moved to their new habitation,

Happy husband and wife, and friends conversing together.

Pleasantly murmured the brook, as they crossed the ford in the forest,

Pleased with the image that passed, like a dream of love through its bosom.

Tremulous, floating in air, o'er the depth of the azure abysses,

Down through the golden leaves, the sun was pouring his splendours,

Gleaming on purple grapes, that from branches above them

Mingled their odorous breath with the balm of the pine and the fir-tree,

Wild and sweet as the clusters that grew in the valley of Beal.

Like a picture it seemed of the primitive, pastoral ages,

Fresh with the youth of the world, and recalling Rebecca and Isaac,

Old and yet ever new, and simple and beautiful always.

Love immortal and young in the endless succession of lovers.

So through the Plymouth woods passed onward the bridal procession.

The Story Teller.

THE DIAMOND BRACELET.

The afternoon of a hot June day was drawing towards evening, and the great world of London—for it was the height of the season—were beginning to think of dinner. In a well-furnished dressing-room, the windows being open for air, and the blinds drawn down to exclude the sun, stood a lady, whose maid was giving the last touch to her rich attire. It was Lady Sarah Hope.

"What bracelets, my lady?" asked the maid, taking a small bunch of keys from her pocket.

"None now; it is so very hot," Alice, added Lady Sarah, turning to a young lady, who was leaning back on a sofa, "have them ready displayed for me when I come up, and I will decide then."

"Have them ready, Lady Sarah?" returned Miss Seaton.

"If you will be so kind, Hughes, give the key to Miss Seaton."

Lady Sarah left the room, and the maid, Hughes, began taking one of the keys off the ring. "I have got to go out, miss," she explained, "and am going directly. My mother is not well, and wants to see me. This is the key, miss."

As Miss Seaton took it, Lady Sarah reappeared at the door. "Alice, you may as well bring the jewel-box down to the back drawing-room. I shall not care to come up here after dinner: we shall be late, as it is."

"What's that about a jewel-box?" inquired a pretty looking girl, who had come from another apartment.

"Lady Sarah wishes me to bring her bracelets down to the drawing-room, that she may choose which to put on. It was too hot to dine in them, she said."

"Are you not coming in to dinner to-day, Alice?"

"No, I walked out, and it has tired me, as usual. I have had some tea instead."

"I would not be you for all the world, Alice! To possess so little capability of enjoying life."

"Yet if you were as I am, weak in health and strength, your lot would have been so soothing to that, you would not regret it or regret it."

"You mean I should be content," laughed the young lady. "Well, there is nothing like contentment, the sagest tell us. One of my dearest school-room copies used to be 'Contentment is happiness.'"

"I can hear the dinner being taken in," said Alice; "you will be late in the drawing-room."

As Lady Frances Cheney turned away to fly down the stairs, her light, rounded form, her elastic step, all telling of health and enjoyment, presented a marked contrast to that of Alice Seaton. Alice's face was indeed strangely beautiful, almost too refined and delicate for the wear and tear of common life, but her figure was weak and stooping, and her gait feeble. Of exceedingly good family, she had been suddenly thrown from her natural position of wealth and comfort to comparative poverty, and had found refuge as "companion" to Lady Sarah Hope.

Colonel Hope was a thin, spare man, with sharp, brown eyes and sharp features; looking so shrunken and short, that he must have been smuggled into the army under height; unless he had since been growing downwards. No stranger could have believed him at ease in his circumstances, any more than they would have believed him a colonel who had seen hard service in India, for his clothes were frequently threadbare. A black ribbon supplied the place of a gold chain, as guard to his watch, and a blue tin-looking thing of a galvanised ring did duty for any other ring on his finger. Yet he was rich; of fabulous riches, people said; but he was of a close disposition, especially as regarded his personal outfit. In his home and to his wife he was liberal. They had been married several years, but had no children, and his large property was not entailed; it was believed that his nephew, Gerard Hope, would inherit it, but some dispute had recently occurred, and Gerard had been turned from the house. Lady Frances Cheney, the sister of Lady Sarah, but considerably younger, had been paying them an eight months' visit in the country, and had now come up to town with them.

Alice Seaton lay on the sofa for half an hour, and then, taking the bracelet-box in her hands, descended to the drawing-rooms. It was intensely hot, a sultry, breathless heat, and Alice threw open the back window, which in truth made it hotter, for the sun gleamed right athwart the leads which stretched themselves before the window, over the outbuildings at the back of the row of houses.

She sat down near this back window, and began to put out some of the bracelets on the table before her. They were rare and rich; of plain gold, of silver, of pearl, of precious stones. One of them was of gold links studded with diamonds; it was very valuable, and had been the present of Colonel Hope to his wife on her recent birthday. Another diamond bracelet was there, but it was not so beautiful or so costly as this. When her task was done, Miss Seaton passed in to the front drawing-room, and threw up one of its large windows. Still there was no air in the room.

As she stood at it, a handsome young man, tall and powerful, who was walking on the opposite side of the street, caught her eye. He nodded, hesitated, and then crossed the street as if to enter.

"It is Gerard!" uttered Alice, under her breath. "Can he be coming here?" She walked away from the window hastily, and sat down by the bedded table in the other room.

"He is supposed!" exclaimed Gerard Hope, entering, and advancing to Alice with stealthy steps. "When I saw you at the window, the thought struck me that you were alone here, and that at dinner. Thomas happened to be airing himself at the door, so I crossed, and asked him; and came up. How are you, Alice?"

"Have you come to dinner?" inquired Alice, speaking at random, and angry at her own agitation.

"I come to dinner?" repeated Mr. Hope. "Why know they'd as soon sit down with the hangman. Can you lend me?"

"Indeed I know nothing about it. I was in hopes you and the colonel might be reconciled. Why did you come in? Thomas will tell."

"No, he won't. I told him not. Alice, the idea of your never coming up till June! Some whim of Lady Sarah's, I suppose. Two or three times a week for the last month have I been marching past this house, wondering when it was going to show signs of life. Is Frances here still?"

"Oh, yes; she is going to remain some time."

"To make up for—Alice, was it not a shame to turn me out?"

"I was extremely sorry for what happened, Mr. Hope, but I know nothing of the details. Lady Sarah said you had displeased the colonel, and after that she never mentioned your name."

"What a show of smart things you have got here, Alice! Are you going to set up a bazaar?"

"They are Lady Sarah's bracelets."

"So they are, I see! This is a gem," added Mr. Hope, taking up the fine diamond bracelet Alice mentioned. "I don't remember this one."

"It is new. The colonel has just given it to her."

"What did it cost?"

Alice Seaton laughed.

"Do you think I am likely to know? I question if Lady Sarah heard, herself."

"It never cost a farthing less than two hundred guineas," mused Mr. Hope, turning the bracelet in various directions that its rich diamonds might give out their gleaming light. "I wish it was mine."

"What should you do with it?" laughed Alice.

"I do not understand," returned Alice. She really did not.

"I beg your pardon, Alice. I was thinking of the colloquial jargon familiarly applied to such transactions, instead of to whom I was talking. I meant raise money upon it."

"Oh, Mr. Hope!"

"Alice, that's twice you have called me 'Mr. Hope.' I thought I was 'Gerard' to you before I went away."

"Time has elapsed since, and you seem like a stranger again," returned Alice, a flush rising to her sensitive face. "But you spoke of raising money; I hope you are not in temporary embarrassment."

"A jolly good thing for me if it turns out only temporary," he rejoined. "Look at my position! Debt hanging over my head—for you may be sure, Alice, all young men, with a limited allowance and large expectations, contract them—and thrust out of my uncle's home with the loose cash I had in my pockets, and my clothes sent after me."

"Has the colonel stopped your allowance?"

Mr. Hope laid down the bracelet from whence he had taken it, before he replied.

"He stopped it then; and I have not had a shilling since, except from my own resources. I feel you may not like me; then I disposed of my watch and chain, and all my other little matters of value; and now I am upon tick again."

"Upon what?" uttered Alice.

"You don't understand these free terms, Alice," he said, looking fondly at her, "and I hope you may never have occasion. Frances would; she has lived in their atmosphere."

"Yes, I know what an embarrassed man the earl is, as you allude to that. But I am grieved to hear about yourself. Is the colonel implacable?"

"What was the cause of the quarrel?"

"You know I was to be his heir. He trusted to the new children had come to him, he had undertaken amply to provide for me. Last Christmas he suddenly sent for me, and told me it was his pleasure and Lady Sarah's that I should take up

my abode with them. So I did, glad to get into such good quarters, and stopped there, like an innocent, unsuspecting lamb, till—when was it, Alice?—April. Then the plot came out. They had fixed upon a wife for me, and I was to hold myself in readiness to marry her at any given moment."

"Who was it?" inquired Alice, in a low tone, as she bent her head over the bracelets.

"Never mind," laughed Mr. Hope. "It wasn't me. I said I would not have her, and they both, he and Lady Sarah, pulled me and my want of taste to pieces, and assured me I was a monster of ingratitude. It provoked me into confessing that I liked somebody else better, and the colonel turned me out."

Alice looked her sorrow, but she did not express it.

"And since then I have been having a fight with my creditors, putting them off with fair words and promises. But they have grown incredulous and it has come to dodging. In favor with my uncle, and his acknowledged heir, they would have given me unlimited time and credit, but the breach is known, and it makes all the difference. With the value of that at my disposal—nodding at the bracelet—I should stop some pressing personal trifles and go on again for a while. So you see, Alice, a diamond bracelet may be of use even to a gentleman, should some genial fortune drop such into his hands."

"I sympathise with you very much," said Alice, "and I wish I had it in my power to aid you."

"Thank you for your kind wishes; I know they are genuine. When my uncle sends the name of Gerard Hope figuring in the insolvent list, or among the outlaws, he—Hark! can they be coming up from dinner?"

"Scarcely yet," said Alice, starting up simultaneously with herself, and listening. "But they will not sit long to-day, because they are going to the opera. Gerard, they must not find you here."

"And get you turned out as well as myself! No, not if I can help it. Alice!"—suddenly laying his hands upon her shoulders, and gazing down into her eyes, "do you know who it was I had learnt to love, instead of—of the other?"

She gasped for breath, and her color went and came.

"No—no; do not tell me, Gerard."

"Why no, I had better not, under present circumstances, but when the good time comes for all their high-red indignation must and will blow over—then I will; and here's the pledge of it." He bent his head, took one long earnest kiss from her lips, and was gone.

Agitated almost to sickness, trembling and confused, Alice stole to look after him, terrified lest he might not escape. She crept partly down stairs, so as to obtain sight of the hall-door, and made sure that he got out in safety. As he drew it open, there stood a lady just about to knock. She said something to him, and he waved his hand toward the staircase. Alice saw that the visitor was her sister, a lady well married and moving in the fashionable world. She met her, and took her into the front drawing-room.

"I cannot stay to sit down, Alice; I must make haste back to dress, for I am engaged to three or four places to-night. Neither do I wish to horrify Lady Sarah with a visit at this untoward hour. I had a request to make to you, and thought to catch you before you went in to dinner."

"They are alone, and are dining earlier than usual. I was too tired to appear. What can I do for you?"

"In one word—I am in pressing need for a little money. Can you lend me?"

"I wish I could," returned Alice; "I am so very sorry. I sent all I had to poor mamma the day before we came to town. It was only twenty-five pounds."

"That would have been of no use to me; I want more. I thought if you had been misering up your salary, you might have had a hundred pounds or so by you."

Alice shook her head.

"I should be a long while saving up a hundred pounds, even if dear mamma had no wants. But I send to her what I can spare. Do not be so hasty, my dear Alice, as her sister was moving to the door. 'At least wait one minute while I fetch you a letter I received from mamma in answer to mine. You will like to read it, for it is full of news about the old place. You can take it home with you.'"

Alice left her sister standing in the room, and went upstairs. But she was more than one minute away, she was three or four, for she could not at first lay her hand upon the letter. When she returned, her sister advanced to her from the back drawing-room, the folding-doors between the two rooms being, as before, wide open.

"What a fine collection of bracelets, Alice!" she exclaimed, as she took the letter. "Are they spread out for a show?"

"No," laughed Alice; "Lady Sarah is going to the opera, and will be in a hurry when she comes up from dinner. She asked me to bring them all down, as she had not decided which to wear."

"I like to dress before dinner on my opera nights."

"Oh, so of course does Lady Sarah," returned Alice, as her sister descended the stairs, "but she said it was too hot to dine in bracelets."

"It is fearfully hot. Good-by, Alice. Don't ring; I will let myself out."

Alice returned to the front room and looked from the window, wondering whether her sister had come in her carriage. No. A trifling evening breeze was arising and beginning to move the curtain about. Gentle as it was, it was grateful, and Alice sat down in it. In a very few minutes the ladies came up from dinner.

"Have you the bracelets, Alice? Oh, yes, I have," she said, as she came up.

"What diamond bracelet?" echoed Alice.

"It's not in the box, miss."

"The diamond bracelets are both in the box," rejoined Alice.

"The old one is there; not the new one. I thought you might have taken it out to show some one, or to look at, yourself, for I'm sure it's a sight for pleasant eyes."

"I can assure you that it is in the case," said Alice. "All are there, except what Lady Sarah had on. You must have overlooked it."

"I must be a great donkey if I have," grumbled the girl. "It must be at the very bottom, amongst the cotton," she soliloquised, as she returned to Lady Sarah's apartments, "and I have just got to take every individual article out, to get to it. This comes of giving up one's keys to other folks."

Alice hastened down, begging pardon for her late appearance. It was readily accorded. Alice's office in the house was nearly a seclusion; when she had first entered upon it, Lady Sarah was ill and required some one to sit with and read to her, but now that she was well again Alice had little to do.

Breakfast was scarcely over when Alice was called from the room. Hughes stood outside.

"Miss," said she, with a long face, "the diamond bracelet is not in the box. I thought it could not be mistaken."

"But it must be in the box," said Alice.

"But it's not," persisted Hughes, emphasizing

the negative; can't you believe me, miss?—What's gone with it?"

Alice Seaton looked at Hughes with a puzzled, dreamy look. She was thinking matters over. It soon cleared again.

"Then Lady Sarah must have kept it out when she put in the rest. It was she who returned them to the case; I did not. Perhaps she wore it last night."

"No, miss, that she didn't. She wore only those two."

"I saw what she had on," interrupted Alice. "But she might also have put on the other, without my noticing. Then she will have kept it out for some other purpose. I will ask her; wait here an instant, Hughes; for of course you will like to be at a certainty."

"That's all," thought Hughes, as Alice went into the breakfast-room, and the colonel came out of it with the newspaper. "I should have said it was somebody else would like to be at a certainty, instead of me. Thank goodness it wasn't in my charge, last night, if anything dreadful has come to pass. My lady don't keep her bracelets for sport. Miss Seaton has left the key about, that's what she has done, and it's hard to say who's been at it. I knew the box had been ransacked over."

"Lady Sarah," said Alice, "did you wear your new diamond bracelet last night?"

"No."

"Then did you put it into the box with the others?"

"No," languidly repeated Lady Sarah, attaching no importance to the question.

"After you had chosen the bracelets you wished to wear, you put the others into the box yourself," explained Alice. "Did you put in the new one, the diamond, or kept it out?"

"The diamond was not there."

Alice stood confounded. "It was on the table at the back of all, Lady Sarah," she presently said. "You saw it, didn't you?"

"I tell you, Alice, it was not there. I don't know that I should have worn it, if it had been, but I certainly looked for it. Not seeing it, I supposed you had not put it out, and did not care sufficiently to ask for it."

Alice felt in a mesh of perplexity; curious thoughts, and very unpleasant ones, were beginning to come over her. "But, Lady Sarah, the bracelet was indeed there when you went to the table," she urged. "I put it there."

"I can assure you that you labor under a mistake, as to its being there when I came up from dinner," answered Lady Sarah. "Why do you ask?"

"Hughes has come to say it is not in the case. She is outside, waiting."

"Outside, now?" Hughes, called out her ladyship; and Hughes came in.

"What's this about my bracelet?"

"I don't know, my lady. The bracelet is not in its place, so I asked Miss Seaton. She thought your ladyship might have kept it out yesterday evening."

"I neither touched it nor saw it," said Lady Sarah.

"Then we have had thieves at work," decided Hughes.

"It must be the box, Hughes," spoke up Alice. "I laid it out on the table, and it is impossible that thieves—as you phrase it—could have come there."

"Oh, yes, it is in the box, no doubt," said her ladyship, somewhat crossly, for she disliked to be troubled, especially in hot weather. "You have not searched properly, Hughes."

"My lady," answered Hughes, "I can trust my hands and I can trust my eyes, and they have all four been into every hole and crevice of the box."

Lady Frances Cheney laid down the Morning Post and advanced. "Is the bracelet really lost?"

"It cannot be lost," returned Lady Sarah. "You are sure you put it out, Alice?"

"I am quite sure of that. It was lying first in the case, and—"

"Yes it was," interrupted Hughes. "That was its place."

"And was consequently the first that I took out," continued Alice. "I put it on the table, and the others round it, nearer to me. Why, as a proof that it lay going to it? Was she going to address as a proof that Gerard Hope had taken it up, and it had been a subject of conversation between them? If so, recollection came to her in time, and she faltered, and abruptly broke off. But a faint, horrible dread, to which she would not give a shape, came stealing over her, and her face turned white, and she sank on a chair, trembling visibly."

"Now look at Alice!" uttered Frances Cheney; "she is going into one of her agitation fits."

"Do not allow yourself to be agitated, Alice," cried Lady Sarah; "that will do no good. Besides, I feel sure the bracelet is all safe in the case: where else can it be? Fetch the case, Hughes, and I will look for it myself."

Hughes whisked out of the room, inwardly resenting the doubt cast on her eyesight.

"It is so strange," mused Alice, "that you did not see the bracelet when you came up."

"It was certainly not there," returned Lady Sarah.

"Perhaps you'll look for yourself, now, my lady," cried Hughes, returning with the jewel-box in her hands.

The box was well searched. The bracelet was not there.

"This is very strange, Hughes," uttered Lady Sarah.

"It's very ugly as well, my lady," answered Hughes, in a lofty tone, "and I'm thankful to the presiding genius which rules such things, that I was not in charge when it happened."

"Though maybe, if I had been, it never would have looked for me, for I can give a guess how it was."

"Then you had better," said her ladyship, curtly.

"If I do," returned Hughes, "I shall offend Miss Seaton."

"No you will not, Hughes," cried Alice, "say what you please: I have need to wish this cleared up."

"Then, miss, if I may speak my thoughts, I think you must have left the key about. My lady; there's that kitchen maid only came in it when we did, and there's the new under butler."

"Hughes, you are wrong," interrupted Alice. "The servants could not have touched the box, for the key never was out of my possession, and you know the lock is a Bramah. I looked the box last night in Lady Sarah's presence, and the key was not out of my pocket afterwards, until you took it from thence this morning."

"The key seems to have had nothing to do with it," interrupted Frances Cheney. "Alice says she put the diamond bracelet on the table at the rest; Lady Sarah says when she went to the table, after dinner, it was not there; so it must have been in the intervening period that she—the disappearance took place."

"And only a few minutes to do it in!" ejaculated Lady Sarah. "What a mystery!"

"It beats conjuring, my lady," said Hughes.

"Could any visitor have come up-stairs?"

"I did hear a visitor's knock when we were at dinner," said Lady Sarah. "Don't you remember, Fanny? You looked up, as if you noticed it."

"Did I?" answered Lady Frances, in a careless tone.

At that moment, Thomas happened to enter with a letter,